

# HOLIDAY CHEAP SHEET

2023 Edition



**McGill**

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# The Frugal Scholar

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## Intent

The Holiday Cheap Sheet is a document that lists free or cheap events and resources at McGill and the Montreal area during the winter holidays. This initiative is part of our Frugal Scholar Money Management Program, which aims to help students with budgeting and to promote financial wellness. All the information in this document was compiled by your fellow students and our Financial Aid Counsellors.

## Disclaimer

*The purpose of this document is to provide frugal ideas to students living on the island of Montreal. The Scholarships and Student Aid Office is not affiliated to and not paid to endorse the services, businesses, and companies listed in this document. All the prices listed in this document are subjected to change without the knowledge of the Scholarships and Student Aid Office.*

## CHEAP EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Skating Rink - Lower field, Downtown Campus

## McGill Events

- Spirituality and wellness events: Check out the [weekly calendar](#) from the McGill Office of Religious and Spiritual Life.
- Residences: Some McGill residences host events over the holidays – ask your Floor Fellows/Dons and Residence Life Facilitators.
- [Winter Break Club](#), hosted by International Student Services. Registration required. Free event.
- Visit the [Student Services calendar](#) for a daily listing of events.



Luminothérapie

credit: JALQ Photography



Le village de Noël de Montréal

## Entertainment

- [Luminothérapie](#) takes place from November 30, 2023, to March 10, 2024. Illuminating [Place des Festivals](#) with a light installation, Luminothérapie is an antidote to Montreal's shortest and darkest days of the year.
- [Noël Dans le Parc](#) takes place from December 8 to December 31, 2023 at three locations: Place Émilie Gamelin, Parc des Compagnons-du-Saint-Laurent, Parc Lahaie. Check out the New Year's Eve activities taking place at Place Émilie Gamelin.
- [Santa's Kingdom](#) (Complexe Desjardins) for students with children and the young at heart. It takes place from November 25 to December 24, 2023.
- [National Film Board of Canada](#) (NFB) has a wide range of films, documentaries, and animation available to stream for free. There is also [interactive](#) and [educational content](#).

## Exhibitions & Markets

- [The Great Christmas Market](#): November 25 to December 30, 2023 at the Quartier des spectacles.
- [Montreal Vegan Christmas Market](#): Online, from December 2 to December 3, 2023. Free admission.
- [Jean Talon Christmas Market](#): Enjoy food and local crafts at the legendary holiday edition of the Jean Talon Market.
- [Sainte-Anne Winter Market](#): (St-George's Anglican Church, 23 rue Perrault) The winter market takes place on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. until December 23, 2023, then back on January 13, 2024.
- [Montreal Christmas Village](#): The most magical of Montreal's Christmas markets returns to the vicinity of Atwater Market. Open from November 30 to December 24, 2023, Friday evenings, and weekends. Free activities on site.



## Winter Sports & Recreational Activities

### Free Skating

Visit [outdoor skating rinks](#). Skate rental is available at some rinks (\$) including Park La Fontaine and Parc Maisonneuve.

### Skating, snow tubing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing at Mount Royal.

Visit [Mount Royal Programming](#) for details.

### Visit your local park for winter activities, such as walking, sledding, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Mont-Royal: bring your own sled to the East side of the mountain bordering Avenue du Parc
- Parc Jarry
- Cap St. Jacques
- Parc nature Bois de Liesse: bring your own sled or rent one (\$5 to \$10)

## Around Mac Campus:

- [Skating rinks in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue](#), including Parc Harpell, Parc Aumais, and Parc Godin in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, or the indoor rink at the [Mac Arena](#) (free for students with a valid McGill ID, Monday – Friday, 12pm – 1pm! Check out their calendar and bring your skates!)
- Morgan Arboretum has plenty of trails for walking, [tobogganing](#), [snowshoeing](#) and [cross-country skiing](#) (there is a daily fee of \$9 for snowshoeing and skiing). Parking may be limited and entrance restricted to members only during peak times, so be sure to call ahead 514-398-7811.
- [Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing rentals](#) from McGill Macdonald Athletics: Free snowshoe rentals if returned on the same day (McGill ID card required). Winter break special: \$35 to rent skis, boots, and poles for the week.
- [Mac Fitness Centre/Gym](#): Free for McGill students. Bring your McGill ID card. Check their website for opening and holiday hours.

*Note: Equipment rentals and activity availability may vary according to public health measures. Check the [City of Montreal website](#) where you can search for information by borough.*

## CHEAP EATS

Generally, restaurants and grocery stores may be closed on December 25 and January 1 and may have reduced hours on December 24, 26 and/or 31. Check their opening hours online before you go!

### Restaurants

#### Cosmos Snack Bar

*5843 rue Sherbrooke Ouest*

A solid option for when you're starving, or just craving some good greasy-spoon fare. They're famous for creations like breakfast burgers, and 6 egg omelets. Breakfast will likely run you less than \$10! Open during regular business hours throughout the holidays.

#### Cachitos

*3 rue Sainte-Catherine ouest*

Sells Venezuelan cachitos (bread with a variety of fillings), pastries, and coffee.

#### Bao Bao Dim Sum

*83 rue de la Gauchetière Ouest*

Similar to Cocobun but cheaper and yummiest (in this humble writer's opinion at least). Located in Chinatown, it's worth the trip for its beautiful location and proximity to other cheap eats! Some favourites: mixed vegetable steamed buns (\$3) and red bean steamed buns (\$3.50 to \$5.00). Open during regular business hours throughout the holidays.

#### Joe's Panini

*1404 rue Drummond*

The Super Sandwich of Concordia University. Open 24 hours, they offer a variety of sweet and savoury grilled sandwiches for \$8 to help you with those hungry all-nighters!

#### Pushap Restaurant and Sweet Shop

*5195 rue Paré*

Available for pick up and delivery, the people who make all the samosas for McGill fundraisers (known as "Samosa Gods") have a physical location, and it is filled with affordable Indian food. Their menu is vegetarian (with quite a few vegan options) and most single portion options are under \$7. Open 11:30 am-9 pm, but hours may vary during the holiday season.

#### Tim Hortons

*674 rue Sherbrooke Ouest or 104 Boul. Don-Quichotte (near the Macdonald Campus)*

A Canadian legend. They offer cheap coffee, hot drinks, donuts, and sandwiches. You can't walk 3 blocks in any Canadian city without passing one. They're reliable, everywhere, and open 24/7.

### Grocery Stores

#### Costco (membership required)

*300 rue Bridge or 5701 autoroute Transcanadienne*

#### PA Supermarché

*1420 rue du fort or 5242 av du Parc*

#### Provigo

*3421 av du Parc or 50 Av Mont-Royal Ouest*

#### Maxi

*90 rue Morgan, near the Macdonald Campus*

#### Super C

*147 av Atwater or 44 boulevard de la Cité-des-Jeunes (near the Macdonald Campus)*